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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 09/445,945 | 04/10/00 | WOLFGANG | W KKF134.001AP |

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| EXAMINER | |
|----------|--------------|
| FOX, J | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 3753 | 12 |

DATE MAILED:03/26/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/445945

Applicant(s)

Examiner

FOX

Group Art Unit

3753

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-30-01

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 30-45, 29 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 29-45 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 29-45 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1 7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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This action is responsive to the communication filed January 30, 2001.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C.

§ 121:

I. Claims 15-23, 25-26 and 29, drawn to a filling connection with a company/user specific form, classified in Class 141, subclass 367.

II. Claims 30-37, drawn to a filling connection adapted for automated operation, classified in Class 141, subclass 311R.

III. Claims 38-45, drawn to a filling connection for plural containers, classified in Class 141, subclass 237.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II and III are each related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, inventions I, II and III each has separate utility such as a filling connection with the specific feature cited above used alone. See M.P.E.P. § 806.05(d).

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the examination required for each Group is not the same as for the other Group(s) restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

Within each Group listed above, the following election of species requirement is made.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A: a filling connection with a single flow path and a one piece body,

Species B: a filling connection with a single flow path and a threaded together body,

Species C: a filling connection with plural flow paths and a one piece body, and

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Species D: a filling connection with plural flow paths and a threaded together body.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 15-18, 23, 25-26, 29-33, 35-41 and 43-45 appear to be generic.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

It should be noted that some of the species listed above may not currently be specifically claimed. However, such unclaimed species are listed at this time in the interest of expediting prosecution in that applicant may identify and elect any single disclosed species and to present claims drawn thereto. Moreover,

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there may be other species present than those listed above such as disclosed but unillustrated variations and applicant may also identify and elect such other species.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

To expedite prosecution an action on the merits follows.

Claims 15-23, 25-26 and 29-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification fails to enablingly disclose how to make and/or use the discharge valve actuated by knob 2 and fails to enablingly disclose how to make and/or use the two flow passage embodiment. No structure of the valve is shown or described, and no structure of the two flow path embodiment is shown or adequately described.


Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Fox at (703) 308-2595 or John.Fox@uspto.gov. Any inquiry of a

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general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861. The fax number for Art Unit 3753 is (703) 308-7765. The Supervisory Primary Examiner for Art Unit 3753 is Michael Buiz who can be reached at (703) 308-2580 or at Michael.Buiz@uspto.gov.


JOHN FOX
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3753

jcf
March 23, 2001